



APR - 8 2005

The Honorable James H. Douglas
Governor of Vermont
109 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05609

Dear Governor Douglas:

It is with pleasure that I respond to the State of Vermont's request for an extension of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) waivers. This response is provided in accordance with the Secretary's authority to waive certain requirements of WIA Title I, subtitles B and E and Sections 8-10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act.

The State of Vermont is requesting an extension of the following approved waivers that expire June 30, 2005:

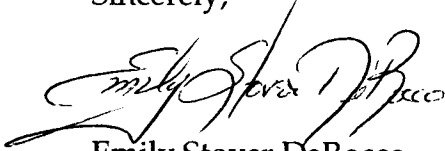
1. Waiver of the WIA Section 123 requirement to competitively select providers of three youth program elements, and
2. Waiver of the time limit on the period of initial eligibility for training providers at 20 CFR 663.530.

The state indicates that an extension of the first waiver is needed because there are not enough service providers to make competitive bidding for most youth services cost efficient. The waiver applies to the selection of providers for the following youth elements: paid and unpaid work experience, supportive services, and follow-up services. An extension of the second waiver is requested to address the continuing difficulties in collection of "all student" information from training providers. Without an extension, the state indicates that many training providers are likely to opt out of the Eligible Training Provider system, thus limiting customer choice. The request is written in the format identified in WIA Section 189(i)(4)(B) and 20 CFR 661.420(c), and appears to meet the standard for approval at 20 CFR 661.420(e). Accordingly, the State of Vermont is granted an extension of the two waivers through June 30, 2007.

The granted waiver extensions are incorporated by reference into the state's WIA Grant Agreement, as provided for under paragraph 3 of the executed Agreement, and also constitute a modification of the state's approved five-year strategic plan. A copy of the letter should be filed with the state's WIA Grant Agreement and the state's approved five-year strategic plan, as appropriate.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and achieving better workforce investment outcomes. We are prepared to entertain other state and local-level waiver requests that you may wish to submit, consistent with the provisions of the WIA statute and regulations.

Sincerely,



Emily Stover DeRocco

Enclosure